

PUBLIC MEETING OF THE BRISTOL COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD

Thursday, August 26, 2021

Bristol County Agricultural High School – Student Commons-2nd floor

Center Street, Dighton

A Public Meeting of the Bristol County Advisory Board commenced at 6:00 P.M. on Thursday, August 26, 2021 at the Student Commons, Bristol County Agricultural High School, 85 Center Street Dighton. Due to COVID-19, the meeting was held both in-person and via Zoom conference.

Notice of this meeting was issued to all members of the Advisory Board, posted on the County website, in the County Courthouses, published in the Taunton Daily Gazette and sent to the City and Town Halls in Bristol County.

Chairman Joseph Pacheco opened the meeting and asked all to stand to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call was taken by Maria V. Gomes, County Administrator, and fourteen out of twenty communities were present for a total of 82.88 percent of the votes out of a total of 100.00.

City or Town	Representative	Vote
Attleboro	Cathleen DeSimone	yes
Dartmouth	John Haran	yes
Dighton	Leonard E. Hull Jr.	yes
Easton	Craig B Barger	yes
Fairhaven	Stasia Powers	yes
Fall River	Linda Pereira	yes
Mansfield	Frank DelVecchio	yes
New Bedford	Brad Markey	yes
No. Attleborough	Michael Borg	yes
Raynham	Joseph Pacheco	yes
Rehoboth	Frederick E. Vadnais, Jr.	yes
Somerset	absent	
Taunton	Shaunna O’Connell	yes
Westport	Richard W. Brewer	yes

Chairman Pacheco introduced the current Executive Board members of the Bristol County Advisory Board, County Commissioners, School Department Administration, County Treasurer and the Registrars from the Registry of Deeds.

A motion was made by Mansfield Selectman Frank DelVecchio to nominate **Joseph Pacheco of Raynham** for Chairman. The motion was seconded by Dighton Selectman Leonard E. Hull Jr. On the motion, Roll Call:

City or Town	Representative	Vote
Attleboro	Cathleen DeSimone	yes
Dartmouth	John Haran	yes

Dighton	Leonard E. Hull Jr.	yes
Easton	Craig B Barger	yes
Fairhaven	Stasia Powers	yes
Fall River	Linda Pereira	yes
Mansfield	Frank DelVecchio	yes
New Bedford	Brad Markey	yes
No. Attleborough	Michael Borg	yes
Raynham	Joseph Pacheco	yes
Rehoboth	Frederick E. Vadnais, Jr.	yes
Somerset	absent	
Taunton	Shaunna O'Connell	yes
Westport	Richard W. Brewer	yes

Motion carries.

Chairman Pacheco asked for nominations for the position of Clerk. Hearing none, the Chairman moved to the next item.

A motion was made by Dighton Selectman Leonard E. Hull Jr. to nominate **Frederick Vadnais of Rehoboth** as Executive Board Member of the Advisory Board. The motion was seconded by Easton Selectman Craig B. Barger.

On the motion, Roll Call:

City or Town	Representative	Vote
Attleboro	Cathleen DeSimone	yes
Dartmouth	John Haran	yes
Dighton	Leonard E. Hull Jr.	yes
Easton	Craig B Barger	yes
Fairhaven	Stasia Powers	yes
Fall River	Linda Pereira	yes
Mansfield	Frank DelVecchio	yes
New Bedford	Brad Markey	yes
No. Attleborough	Michael Borg	yes
Raynham	Joseph Pacheco	yes
Rehoboth	Frederick E. Vadnais, Jr.	abstain
Somerset	absent	
Taunton	Shaunna O'Connell	yes
Westport	Richard W. Brewer	yes

Motion carries.

Chairman Pacheco returned to the nomination of the Clerk of the Advisory Board. County Commissioner Kitchen asked to speak. He suggested that Stasia Powers of Fairhaven would be a good nominee for the position of Clerk. Chairman Pacheco asked Ms. Powers if she would be interested in serving as Clerk. She indicated that she would serve.

A motion was made by Fall River Councilwoman Linda Pereira to nominate **Fairhaven Selectwoman Stasia Powers** as Clerk of the Advisory Board. The motion was seconded by Dighton Selectman Leonard Hull Jr.

On the motion, Roll Call:

City or Town	Representative	Vote
Attleboro	Cathleen DeSimone	yes
Dartmouth	John Haran	yes
Dighton	Leonard E. Hull Jr.	yes
Easton	Craig B Barger	yes
Fairhaven	Stasia Powers	yes
Fall River	Linda Pereira	yes
Mansfield	Frank DelVecchio	yes
New Bedford	Brad Markey	yes
No. Attleborough	Michael Borg	yes
Raynham	Joseph Pacheco	yes
Rehoboth	Frederick E. Vadnais, Jr.	yes
Somerset	absent	
Taunton	Shaunna O'Connell	yes
Westport	Richard W. Brewer	yes

Motion carries.

Somerset joined the meeting at 6:11 pm

A motion was made by Westport Selectman Richard Brewer to ratify the actions of Commissioner's & Treasurer regarding COVID 19 computer purchases with funds not appropriated in the FY '21 Budget. The motion was seconded by Dighton Selectman Leonard E. Hull Jr.

Mayor O'Connell of Taunton asked if these costs would come from the ARPA money. County Administrator Gomes indicated that these were computer costs associated with the onset of COVID and the need to purchase computer equipment to work remotely. Since the last meeting, these funds have been reimbursed through the CARES Act money from the State of Massachusetts.

City or Town	Representative	Vote
Attleboro	Cathleen DeSimone	yes
Dartmouth	John Haran	yes
Dighton	Leonard E. Hull Jr.	yes
Easton	Craig B Barger	yes
Fairhaven	Stasia Powers	yes
Fall River	Linda Pereira	yes

Mansfield	Frank DelVecchio	yes
New Bedford	Brad Markey	yes
No. Attleborough	Michael Borg	yes
Raynham	Joseph Pacheco	yes
Rehoboth	Frederick E. Vadnais, Jr.	yes
Somerset	Kathleen Souza	yes
Taunton	Shaunna O'Connell	yes
Westport	Richard W. Brewer	yes

Motion carries.

A motion was made by Westport Selectman Brewer, seconded by Councilwoman Pereira of Fall River to accept the minutes of November 19, 2020 as presented.

City or Town	Representative	Vote
Attleboro	Cathleen DeSimone	abstain
Dartmouth	John Haran	yes
Dighton	Leonard E. Hull Jr.	yes
Easton	Craig B Barger	yes
Fairhaven	Stasia Powers	abstain
Fall River	Linda Pereira	abstain
Mansfield	Frank DelVecchio	yes
New Bedford	Brad Markey	yes
No. Attleborough	Michael Borg	abstain
Raynham	Joseph Pacheco	yes
Rehoboth	Frederick E. Vadnais, Jr.	yes
Somerset	Kathleen Souza	abstain
Taunton	Shaunna O'Connell	yes
Westport	Richard W. Brewer	yes

Motion carries with 53.19% voting yes.

Upon motion of Rehoboth Selectman Vadnais, seconded by Dighton Selectman Hull, it was unanimously voted to approve and authorize the County to issue the FY 2022 County Tax in the amount of **\$7,018,393.81**.

City or Town	Representative	Vote
Attleboro	Cathleen DeSimone	yes
Dartmouth	John Haran	yes
Dighton	Leonard E. Hull Jr.	yes
Easton	Craig B Barger	yes
Fairhaven	Stasia Powers	yes
Fall River	Linda Pereira	yes
Mansfield	Frank DelVecchio	yes
New Bedford	Brad Markey	yes

No. Attleborough	Michael Borg	yes
Raynham	Joseph Pacheco	yes
Rehoboth	Frederick E. Vadnais, Jr.	yes
Somerset	Kathleen Souza	yes
Taunton	Shaunna O'Connell	yes
Westport	Richard W. Brewer	yes

Motion carries.

Upon motion of Westport Selectman Brewer, seconded by Dartmouth Selectman Haran, it was voted to approve the **Estimated County Receipts for FY 2022 Budget** in the amount of **\$25,778,785.95**.

Registries of Deeds

Taunton	\$690,000.00
<i>Postage</i>	\$10,000.00
<i>Dial-in/Internet</i>	260,000.00
New Bedford	\$631,500.00
<i>Postage</i>	\$14,000.00
<i>Dial-in/Internet</i>	\$40,000.00
Fall River	\$382,500.00
<i>Postage</i>	\$2,500.00
<i>Dial-in/Internet</i>	\$45,000.00
County Tax	\$7,018,393.81
Courthouse Rental [est.]	\$2,019,873.12
Print Shop	\$40,000.00
Misc. Income	\$40,000.00
B. C. Agricultural School	\$7,252,257.93
Unreserved	\$1,306,676.17

Deeds Excise Fund Receipts

Taunton Registry	\$625,000.00
New Bedford Registry	\$425,000.00
Fall River Registry	\$400,000.00
DOR - BCSO Unfunded Pension Liability	\$2,818,025.00

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Deeds Excise Budget

Carry Over Amount

Taunton Registry	\$455,000.00
New Bedford Registry	\$677,000.00
Fall River Registry	\$275,000.00
County	\$351,059.92

On discussion, Westport Selectman Brewer asked for an explanation of the DOR-BCSO Pension Liability. County Treasurer Christopher Saunders addressed the question. The State took over the Sherriff's Department. Although they took the assets, they left the pension liability and allowed the County to use a portion of Deed Excise Tax to be put towards the unfunded pension liability. So the money comes in through Deeds and goes out to Retirement. This would cease in approximately 2027. The pension liability is expected to end in 2027.

No other questions,

On the motion, Roll Call:

City or Town	Representative	Vote
Attleboro	Cathleen DeSimone	yes
Dartmouth	John Haran	yes
Dighton	Leonard E. Hull Jr.	yes
Easton	Craig B Barger	yes
Fairhaven	Stasia Powers	yes
Fall River	Linda Pereira	yes
Mansfield	Frank DelVecchio	yes
New Bedford	Brad Markey	yes
No. Attleborough	Michael Borg	yes
Raynham	Joseph Pacheco	yes
Rehoboth	Frederick E. Vadnais, Jr.	yes
Somerset	Kathleen Souza	yes
Taunton	Shaunna O'Connell	yes
Westport	Richard W. Brewer	yes

Motion carries.

Upon motion of Dighton Selectman Hull, seconded by Fall River Councilwoman Pereira it was voted to approve the **Bristol County Agricultural High School Budget for Fiscal Year 2022** in the amount of **\$10,746,870.93**.

On discussion, Selectman Barger from Easton and Selectman Brewer from Westport asked about the increase amount in the school budget. Business Manager Derek Costa addressed the questions pointing out increases in utility, busing and staffing.

No further discussion,

On the motion, Roll Call:

City or Town	Representative	Vote
Attleboro	Cathleen DeSimone	yes
Dartmouth	John Haran	yes
Dighton	Leonard E. Hull Jr.	yes
Easton	Craig B Barger	yes
Fairhaven	Stasia Powers	yes
Fall River	Linda Pereira	yes
Mansfield	Frank DelVecchio	yes
New Bedford	Brad Markey	yes
No. Attleborough	Michael Borg	yes
Raynham	Joseph Pacheco	yes
Rehoboth	Frederick E. Vadnais, Jr.	yes
Somerset	Kathleen Souza	yes

Taunton	Shaunna O'Connell	yes
Westport	Richard W. Brewer	yes

Motion carries.

Upon motion of Westport Selectman Brewer, seconded by Mansfield Selectman DelVecchio, it was voted to approve the **Estimated County Budget for FY 2022 Budget** in the amount of **\$25,778,785.95**.

Interest on County Debt	\$	0.00
County Commissioners	\$	373,497.30
Print Shop	\$	97,501.03
Courthouse Buildings	\$	2,358,056.05
B. C. Agricultural School	\$	8,308,826.77
Aggie Core	\$	2,438,044.16
Misc. Account {Deeds \$739,780.00}	\$	106,450.00
Unpaid Bills {Deeds \$ 47,000.00}		
Reserve Fund {Deeds \$20,000.00}		
Medical/Life Insurance {Deeds \$368,279.92}	\$	483,715.08
Advisory Board Exp.	\$	1,000.00
Contributory Retirement	\$	1,361,221.00
County Audit {Deeds \$32,000.00}		
County Treasurer	\$	500,221.11
Taunton Registry	\$	1,612,547.11
New Bedford Registry	\$	1,099,106.74
Fall River Registry	\$	987,514.68
Capital Improvements		
OPEB Trust Fund	\$	25,000.00
Deeds Excise Budget		
Taunton Registry	\$	705,000.00
New Bedford Registry	\$	847,000.00
Fall River Registry	\$	435,000.00
County	\$	1,221,059.92
DOR- BCSO Unfunded Pension Liability	\$	2,818,025.00
Total Budgets	\$	25,778,785.95

On discussion, Selectman Haran from Dartmouth asked about the County Treasurer's salary increase.

County Commissioner Kitchen explained that it is a \$10,000 increase. Mr. Saunders is assuming the responsibility of the ARPA program. "In comparison to other County Treasurer's, his salary is lower."

Town Manager Borg of North Attleboro asked a question about the OPEB liability. Both Treasurer Saunders and Commissioner Kitchen addressed the question.

No further discussion,

On the motion, Roll Call:

City or Town	Representative	Vote
Attleboro	Cathleen DeSimone	yes
Dartmouth	John Haran	yes
Dighton	Leonard E. Hull Jr.	yes
Easton	Craig B Barger	yes
Fairhaven	Stasia Powers	yes
Fall River	Linda Pereira	yes
Mansfield	Frank DelVecchio	yes
New Bedford	Brad Markey	yes
No. Attleborough	Michael Borg	yes
Raynham	Joseph Pacheco	yes
Rehoboth	Frederick E. Vadnais, Jr.	yes
Somerset	Kathleen Souza	yes
Taunton	Shaunna O'Connell	yes
Westport	Richard W. Brewer	yes

Motion carries.

Superintendent Adele Sands provided an update on the Bristol County Agricultural School building project. She thanked all the supporting communities for their support.

Commissioner Mitchell also thanked the communities for their support on the school project. He indicated that the renovation has allowed the school to accept more students.

Selectman Hull of Dighton thanked the County and school for offering an excellent agricultural program.

Commissioner Mitchell provided a brief update on the ARPA funding program that the County will be administering. He mentioned that Bristol, Plymouth and Norfolk counties will be working together collaborating on a common application process using an application portal. The County will be using some of the ARPA funding for its own projects and administration costs. All applications will come from the city or town. The County will be receiving \$109 million of which, half has been received.

Selectman Barger from Easton asked if the County would be retaining the County disbursement from the US Treasury. Timing of city and town distributions depends on application submittal and review.

Selectman Richard Brewer asked about the process that the communities would need to go thru to apply for the funds from the County. There was a brief discussion on indemnification. Commissioner Kitchen explained that the legal counsel Mintz will be reviewing all indemnification.

Mayor O'Connell asked about the allocation and the process of applying on a project by project basis. Commissioner Mitchell explained that it would be based on per capita, project by project basis, submitted through the County ARPA Portal based on the release of funds as approved by the County Commissioners.

Mansfield Town Manager Dumas asked that the County send out a letter to all cities and towns on what their allocations would be. This would be helpful for annual meetings and budgeting purposes.

There was a question about who would approve the County's projects. County Commissioner Kitchen stated that he believed it would be necessary for the Advisory Board to approve the County ARPA projects. Councilwoman Pereira asked about when the ARPA funds had to be used. Commissioner Kitchen explained that projects approved by December 2024 and expended out by December 2026.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Pereira from Fall River, seconded by Town Manager Borg of North Attleboro to adjourn at 7:14 pm.

On the motion, Roll Call:

City or Town	Representative	Vote
Attleboro	Cathleen DeSimone	yes
Dartmouth	John Haran	yes
Dighton	Leonard E. Hull Jr.	yes
Easton	Craig B Barger	yes
Fairhaven	Stasia Powers	yes
Fall River	Linda Pereira	yes
Mansfield	Frank DelVecchio	yes
New Bedford	Brad Markey	yes
No. Attleborough	Michael Borg	yes
Raynham	Joseph Pacheco	yes
Rehoboth	Frederick E. Vadnais, Jr.	yes
Somerset	Kathleen Souza	yes
Taunton	Shaunna O'Connell	yes
Westport	Richard W. Brewer	yes